

River Facts

- The Detroit River is about 32 miles long and runs from the Windmill Point light at Lake St. Clair to the Detroit River light in Lake Erie.
- The city of Detroit lines the river for about 13 miles.
- About 5 million people live in the Detroit River watershed.
- The deepest section of the river is between Belle Isle and Zug Island. The river is 50 feet deep at its deepest point.
- The narrowest width of the river is about 1/2 mile.
- The average current of the river is about 1.7 miles per hour. The flow rate of the river is about 185,000 cubic feet per second. The gradient or vertical drop of the river is about 4 feet from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie.
- The Detroit River has more than 21 islands that have altogether 72 miles of shoreline. The largest island is Grosse Isle, which is about ten square miles in size.
- The Detroit-Windsor tunnel was completed in 1930 and remains the only underwater international automobile tunnel in the world. More than 20,000 vehicles travel through the tunnel everyday. The tunnel is about one mile long.
- The Ambassador Bridge also links Detroit with Canada. It was completed in 1929.
- From 1801 to 1960 at least 655 ships were built at yards and locations from the lower Rouge River downstream to the mouth of the Detroit River. Hundreds more were built in Detroit.
- The port of Detroit handles more than 14% of cargo handled by Great Lakes ports.

- The Detroit River is responsible for moving about 80 million tons of cargo every year.